

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (PROF. P.J. KURIEN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The impact of the increased price of indigenous newsprint on the Newspaper industry has been to the extent the newspaper industry consumes the indigenous newsprint.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) There is, at present, no statutory control over the prices of indigenous newsprint. However, any revision in the price of indigenous newsprint is kept under ex-post periodic review by Government.

Steps to Standardise Computer Training and Education

4963. SHRI RAM NARESH SINGH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to standardise and regulate computer training and education in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof and steps taken in this regard; and

(c) if not, the reasons thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA): (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. The Government of India, Department of Electronics vide Resolution, dated 16th August, 1990, have announced a scheme under which private sector computer training institutes meeting the defined quality and service standards would be given accreditation for conducting certain specified courses viz. O(Foundation), A(Advance Diploma), B(Graduate) and C(Post-Graduate) levels computer courses.

(c) Does not arise.

Fresh Recruitment under Barred Categories in Central Government/Public Undertakings for SCs/STs

4964. SHRI KODIKKUNIL SURESH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to make fresh recruitment of Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes under barred categories in the Central Government offices and Public Sector Undertakings;

(b) the employment provided to SCs/STs and other backward classes under reserved quota in the Central Government offices/Public Sector Undertakings separately during the last three years, year-wise and the vacancies likely to be available for these reserved categories during the next three years; and

(c) the special facilities proposed to be provided to SCs/STs and other backward classes youth to compete for technical and administrative services?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA): (a) to (c). The process of filling-up vacancies including reserved vacancies in various Government Departments and Public Sector Undertakings is an ongoing process. In each recruitment exercise, efforts are made to appoint SC/ST persons against their reserved share in all categories of posts to which reservation apply. Special Recruitment Drives have also been resorted to appoint SC/ST candidates to clear the backlog of vacancies reserved for them.

The employment provided to SC/ST persons in the Central Government/Public Sector Undertakings for the years 1987, 88 and 89 is indicated below:

STATEMENT

Central Government Departments

Year	Scheduled Castes	Scheduled Tribes
1	2	3
1-1-87 - 31-12-87	11963	2328
1-1-88 - 31-12-88	17594	10177
1-1-89 - 31-12-89	21132	11567
Public Sector Undertakings		
1-1-87 - 31-12-87	9699	13927
1-1-88 - 31-12-88	9748	2550
1-1-89 - 31-12-89	5362	3920

As the operation of the Government orders prescribing reservation for the socially and educationally backward classes in Government services has been stayed by the Supreme Court, even before the order could be given effect, employment provided to persons belonging to the backward classes under the reserved quota has not been maintained.

The vacancies that are likely to be available for the reserved categories in the Central Government Department/Public Sector Undertakings depends upon the total number of vacancies that would arise in different categories of posts which in-turn depends upon a number of other factors such as expansion of activities, clearance of projects, wastage of manpower etc. It is thus not possible to project vacancies that would arise in the future.

Special facilities provided to SC/ST candidates include relaxations and concessions with regard to age/limit, exemption from payment of examination/application fee, reimbursement of travelling expenses for interviews, separate interviews for candidates belonging to SC/ST, inclusion of a Member belonging to SC/ST in Selection Committees and relaxation in standards of

suitability and experience. Such concessions have not been extended to persons belonging to the backward classes.

Standing Advisory Committee on Agricultural Policy Matters

4965. PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU: Will the Minister of PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state:

(a) the number of meetings held by the Standing Advisory Committee on Agricultural Policy matters headed by Shri Sharad Joshi;

(b) the important suggestions made at the meetings; and

(c) the follow-up action taken by the Union Government on those suggestions?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ): (a) The Standing Advisory Committee held 24 meetings.

(b) and (c). A statement is given below.